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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, DC 20554

In the matter of)	ORIGINAL
Amendment of the Commission's	5	UNIGIIML
Rules Regarding Installment Payment)	
Financing For Personal Communications)	
Services (PCS) Licensees)	WT Docket No. 97-82
)	
Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's)	
Rules - Competitive Bidding Proceeding	j	

PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Airtel Communications, Inc., pursuant to section 1.429 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.429, respectfully requests reconsideration of certain aspects of the Second Report and Order in the above-captioned proceeding. Specifically, the Commission should:

- 1. Permit licensees to retain licenses in which they have made significant build-out;
- 2. Permit licensees to utilize their full down payment in the Disaggregation and Prepayment options; and,
- 3. Adjust the Prepayment option to account for the net present value of forgoing installment payments.

Airtel is a woman-owned site development firm, which is based in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. Airtel began site development services for several C Block bidders; however, due to their inability to obtain financing Airtel's services were halted. These C Block bidders stopped their network build outs until such time as their financing was put in place. Unfortunately, this time period has been far longer than ever anticipated by any of the parties. In anticipation of future growth, Airtel made significant investments in personnel; office space and computer hardware to support the network build-outs and the delays to the build-outs has been devastating.

The C Block bidders were extremely receptive to contracting small firms and affording them the opportunity to provide network build-out services. The opportunity was two fold. Firstly, the current and immediate expansion of small businesses. Secondly, small business' ability to more effectively compete for service contracts from the established carriers in the industry. The project experience and corporate resources that would be acquired from the C Block build-out would enhance their marketability to the industry giants.

The FCC's restructuring decision is punitive to C Block bidders, and as a result, harms a number of small businesses engaged in supporting C Block build-out activities. Such companies

¹ Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Installment Payment Financing For Personal Communications Services (PCS) Licenses, Second Report and Order, WT Docket No.97-82, FCC 97-342, rel. Oct. 16, 1997 ("Restructuring Order"). No. of Copies rec'd Ot / List ABCOE

have made significant investments and created a number of jobs in anticipation of supporting the rapid build-out and commercialization of C block network.

We believe that the Commission should have placed a greater emphasis on the comments made by our principal advocate within the Administration, the Small Business Association ("SBA"). According to the letter, "There are thousands of small business vendors, suppliers, contractors, engineering and marketing firms across the country who have not had the opportunity to finalize service contracts or commence work for C-block licensees."

Small businesses and the jobs that we create are at the heart of the C block. While this proceeding is controversial, it is important to continue to focus on the contribution that we are all trying to make to facilities-based competition, at the same time that most of today's headlines are devoted to consolidation, rather than competition, among giant telecommunication competities.

We believe in auction integrity and fairness. However, in offering a set of options to C block licensees that is so limited as to be punitive, the commission inadvertently punished numerous suppliers and vendors who relied on C block licensees for new business. Commission policy should promote opportunities for all small business, including those engaged in supporting network build-out activities.

The Restructuring Order did not provide C block licensees with any commercially reasonable alternatives. We are concerned that the Order will result in even more bankruptcy filings by distressed C block licensees, which will delay further network build-out and, ultimately, a new competitor in the marketplace.

We urge you to reconsider the affect your decision has had on suppliers to the wireless marketplace. The C block experiment has not resulted in a significant amount of new facilities-based competition, as was anticipated. However, this public policy experiment can be a success if C block licensees are provided with commercially reasonable restructuring alternatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

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President, Airtel Communications, Inc.

² See Jere W. Glover, Chief Counsel, U.S. Small Business Administration and Jenell S. Trigg, assistant Chief Counsel, telecommunications, to The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman, Federal Communications, exparte letter, September 8, 1997 at p.5.